

BOOK REVIEW OF *FLIPPED*
BY WENDELIN VAN DRAANEN

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of writing

Literary work exists because of someone who expresses thoughts and brilliant ideas that are easy to understand and got someone interested. Literary work is dealing with human life. Literature and humans are close relationship, because of its association with aspects of human of life which gave people to use their imagination like a story. Mursal Esten (1978:4) says “*Literature or literature is disclosure of the facts as its artistic and imaginative manifestation of human life (and society) through language as medium and has positive effect of human life*”.

Flipped is a novel that tells love written by Wendelin Van Draanen. *Flipped* is one of the great works of Wendelin. She has a positive comment about this novel. *Flipped* is published in New York 2001 and has been repeatedly printed. *Flipped* had been filmed and it became favorite film for various groups of people, because the story is interesting and is also added in the comedy scene.

1.2 The Purpose of writing

- 1.1.1 To analyze the themes of Wendelin Van Draanen’s *Flipped*.
- 1.1.2 To describe the strength of the story.
- 1.1.3 To describe the weakness of the story.

1.3 Wendelin Van Draanen and her works



Biography of Wendelin Van Draanen

According Wendelin, the book is part of her life. Since childhood, Wendelin already had a hobby of reading books. She spent the summer holidays with reading books and participating in activities at the library. Determination of Wendelin owned since childhood to be a writer. Wendelin steps to becoming a writer is not running smoothly. Many obstacles she had to go through. She continued to write despite the initial writing of her work, she often gets rejection for ten years until her first novel published. Wendelin likes to write a book that the story about the children, she thought it was

a very interesting thing.

Wendelin started writing from *Sammy Keyes series* in 1977. Sammy is a friend of Wendelin who have a manly physique and wise character. Wendelin is a high school teacher and also mother.

When Wendelin has free time, she spent time with her husband and her children. According Wendelin, if interested in being a writer in addition to determination, it is necessary to pay attention to people talking, reading many types of books and then try to write to the groove as well as different styles. Do not be afraid to experiment with receipts observations and experiences of the self. Then, make the character of the people who liked observations and experiences do not be afraid to fail, kept writing until it reaches a top where the posts were created appreciated and liked by many people.

Wendelin is repeatedly rewriting the book before the results she submitted to the editor. After her editor said that she didn't need to rewrite the book, it means that the book is ready for publication. It is a great and fun thing to Wendelin, because of her dreams had been a reality. Wendelin's experience teaches everyone not to give up and always try. Besides *Sammy Keyes series*, Wendelin Van Draanen also wrote *Shrederman*, *Flipped* and *Swear to Howdy*.

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

Flipped is novel about the love story. This novel told the story of a girl named Julianna Baker and a boy named Bryce Loski. Julianna Baker ir called Juli was a little girl who is innocent and funny. She loved her neighbor and also her school friend whose name is Bryce Loski. The story began in the summer holidays before her entered to primary school. When, Juli saw Bryce for the first time she immediatedly felt in love with him. Juli liked Bryce's eyes that are light blue. Juli had always trying to get close to Bryce. She tried to talk with Bryce. Juli also helped Bryce when he moved to the new house. Juli was the girl who had a high spirit.

Flipped tells about the story of teenage love that is sweet and beautiful. This story gives us the lesson that we cannot see someone from the performance, but from the characters. Like the proverb says, "Don't judge book from the cover, but recognize it from the contains".

REVIEW OF THE FLIPPED

The strengths of this novel included the character and the theme. They are decribed as in following.

3.1 The Strengths of *The Flipped*

The story has many aspects, for example: theme, characters, setting, morals, etc. But, the writer will discuss the character, because the centre of this story is in the main character. Every story should have a character to support the story and the reader will understand better the author's purpose. Characters (character), according to Abrams (1981:20), *is the person (s) displayed in a work of narrative, or drama, which is interpreted by the reader has a certain moral qualities and tendencies as expressed in speech and what is done in action.*

3.1.2 Main Character, Julianna Baker

Julianna Baker is a 13 years old girl. Juli is a girl who has a cheerful nature, good, strong, patient, and never gives up. Juli loves Bryce Loski very much and it started when she was 7 years old. Bryce is a new neighbor of Juli. Bryce's house was located across in front of Juli's house. Juli has a habit climbing the sycamore tree which is located not far from her house. Before leaving school, Juli climbs sycamore tree to see if the school bus that came to pick the students has been coming. And when the bus comes, Juli tells her friends and come down from the tree. After returning from school, Juli likes to climb tree and enjoying the air breeze and sunset. This beautiful scenery makes Juli amazed.

- The Strong Personality

Julianna Baker is a girl who has a strong desire. Juli really likes the sycamore tree, because from her point of views sycamore tree makes her comfortable. When sycamore tree was cut down, she is still up on the tree, even the police and news reporter command her down from the tree. Juli also requests to Bryce and her friend to climb sycamore tree, so the tree isn't cut down by owner.

The bus was three blocks away. I'd never missed school for any reason other than legitimate illness, but I knew in my heart that I was going to miss my ride. "You're going to have to cut me down!" I yelled. Then I had an idea. They'd never cut it down if all of us were in the tree.

They'd have to listen! "Hey, guys!" I called to my classmates. "Get up here with me! They can't cut it down if we're all up here! Marcia! Tony! Bryce! C'mon, you guys, don't let them do this!" (2001:29)

From the quotation above, it shows Julianna Baker has the strong desire. Juli has strong will to climb the sycamore tree until the top of the tree, moreover Juli does not want to go to school. But, at last Juli wants to climb right down from the tree, because of her father persuasion.

3.1.3 Theme

Love

Falling in love is an amazing feeling for someone. Love is not only grow for opposite sex, but also for parents, family, or friends. However this time we will discuss the love that grows to the opposite sex. Love comes by an accident, for example it just shows to someone new or it is a long love story. Love feelings come so suddenly. It does not depend on the differences of age, social status, or time and place. When a person falls in love, they feel as if the world is very beautiful. The heart is filled with happiness. Kahlil Gibran said that "*Love is Trembling*", which can be meant that love grows in the heart. Love should always be kept with sincerity, trust, and mutual understanding of each other, or love can be lost easily.

3.2 The Weakness of The Flipped

Besides the strengths, this novel also has some weaknesses, such as: table contents is the end of the page, not in the first page and there is no page numbers in the novel.

1. List of contents located on the last page

Usually in a novel, the table of contents is located at the beginning of the page before the first chapter of the story. The table of contents should be located at the beginning of the page, so that the readers had no trouble finding a part before reading and helps the reader to analyze all the content of the novel. But in this novel the location of the table contents at the end of the page after the background of the novel. It make the reader confuse. Because, generally table of contents located at the beginning as a acknowledgement from the author.

2. There are no page numbers on the novel

The second weakness that we can find in *Flipped* is there are no pages number on the novel. In general, the novel should have a page number which is located at the bottom of each page. Page number have important impact in the novel. When there is no page number, the readers will get confuse to the part where they start to read.

CONCLUSION

Flipped is one of the best works of Wendelin Van Draanen. This novel is very interesting to read, because it has a beautiful story that is packed using a language that is very easy to understand.

The weakness in this novel is the location of the error contents at the end of the page and also the absence of page numbers in the novel. Thus, the reader feels difficulties finding which part to be read and studied.

In conclusion, the novel *Flipped* is recommended to read. Because it has an amazing story and the plot that are very interesting. In addition, the life lesson we could get from this novel is we should be patient and struggle to get what we want.

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